

Application No.: 09/816,762

6

Docket No.: 09450/000K685-USO

**REMARKS****Pending Claims**

Claims 1, 3, and 6-13 have been allowed. Claim 5 has been rejected. In the June 27, 2005 Amendment, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice to place the application in condition for allowance. However, with this supplemental amendment, Applicants has reintroduced claim 5 with elements of claim 1 added to render claim 5 allowable.

Adding the elements of claim 1 into claim 5 introduced an antecedent problem of having two memory fields. Thus, the terms "first memory field" and "second memory field" were introduced in claim 5 to distinguish the memory field of the invalid image field from the memory field of the optical mask. The concept of having first and second memory fields are supported, for example, on page 17, lines 10 to 12, which states: "The characteristic data of solid image capturing device 11 may be obtained using data electrically stored in the memory field 31 and data recorded in the memory field of the optical mask 15." No new matter has been added.

**Summary**

In response to the outstanding Office Action of May 4, 2005, Applicants has canceled claim 5 without prejudice to place the application in condition for allowance on June 27, 2005. Applicants now with this supplemental amendment reintroduced claim 5 with elements of claim 1 added to render claim 5 allowable. The added elements of claim 1 are: "said solid image capturing device includes an optical mask covering said invalid image field; and said optical mask includes a second memory field for optically storing said characteristic data." The rest of claim 5 is basically the same as claim 5 presented in the amendments of November 2, 2004.

Applicants believe the added elements in claim 5 from claim 1, "said solid image capturing device includes an optical mask covering said invalid image field; and said optical mask includes a

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Application No.: 09/816,762

7

Docket No.: 09450/000K685-US0

second memory field for optically storing said characteristic data" render claim 5 allowable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: July 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted

By 

Chris T. Mizumoto

Registration No.: 42,899

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant

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